



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

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Western Parcel of Mare Island Transferred to Civilian Use

Berkeley - - The California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) announced today the early transfer of 2,800 acres at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo consisting of historic mudflats, wetlands, and submerged land to create a recreational destination for Bay Area residents. The transfer, approved by Governor Gray Davis includes a \$54 million Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement between the Navy and the City of Vallejo to ensure completion of hazardous waste cleanup on the parcel.

"The early transfer of this parcel provides much needed open space for San Francisco Bay area residents. It also includes an Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement, which ensures payment and implementation of a DTSC approved cleanup plan to address remaining contamination at the site," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director.

Under a negotiated agreement, (Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement), the Navy will provide the City of Vallejo with \$54 million in specified installments for remediation of the Western Parcel and an adjacent parcel.

DTSC has signed the Final Remedial Action Plan (cleanup plan) to address contamination in the dredge ponds and in the mudflats. Contamination identified during investigation of the ponds and surrounding levees included ordnance, heavy metals and polychlorinated bynifels (pcb) in soil. The plan was based on field investigation, historical records, and previous removal actions.

Established in 1854, Mare Island's primary mission was to maintain, overhaul and refuel ships; provide logistical support for ships and service craft; and provide service and materials for other Navy functions. As one of the oldest United States Naval Bases on the West Coast, over 500 ships were built at Mare Island and hundreds more were repaired there. During 140 years a variety of operations have generated hazardous waste.

Operations in the 2,800 Western parcels included the dredge pond system, which was created in several stages between 1914 and 1965 to support the maintenance dredging of Mare Island Strait waterways and ship berthing facilities at the shipyard. During the 13-year period between 1980 and 1993, an estimated 20,000,000 cubic yards of materials were dredged.

During the early years of World War II, ships berthing at the docks would dispose of unused ordnance, (20 millimeter anti-aircraft rounds, 40 millimeter anti-aircraft rounds), by throwing it overboard into the Strait. DTSC and the City's environmental contractor (Weston) have concluded that most of the ordnance items have been removed, especially within two feet of the surface. There is a limited chance that small-corroded items still remain below two feet from the surface in the levees. Unlike other ordnance sites in California, ordnance that may still remain at the dredge ponds has not been fired, and therefore the fuses have not been armed.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."